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Virginia Health Commissioner

MHAC Members

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Sickle Cell Association, Inc.
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Education Program
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Virginia Department of Health
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Michael A. Pyles, PhD
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David Simmons, MSN, RN, CNN
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Claudia Tellez
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Rudolph Wilson, PhD
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Hassan Yousuf, MD
Southside Regional Medical Center
Petersburg

**Michael O. Royster, MD, MPH,
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VDH Office of Minority Health and
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Ex Officio

Virginia Health Commissioner's Minority Health Advisory Committee

Our Mission:

The mission of the Minority Health Advisory Committee is to promote the elimination of health inequities among racial and ethnic minorities and other disadvantaged populations in Virginia.

Our History:

Virginia's State Health Commissioner created the Minority Health Advisory Committee (MHAC) in 1990 to promote and advocate for the elimination of health inequities among all racial and ethnic minorities and other disadvantaged populations in Virginia. The MHAC is committed to promoting health equity and social justice, including addressing the social determinants of health.

Our Membership:

MHAC members are appointed for four-year terms by the Virginia State Health Commissioner. The committee is representative of Virginia's racial and ethnic minority and disadvantaged populations as well as other key stakeholders. The MHAC includes representatives from state and local public health agencies, health care providers, consumers, colleges and universities, and faith and ethnic organizations.



Our Role:

MHAC members advise and make recommendations to the Commissioner of Health, with particular attention to:

- Identifying limitations associated with existing laws, regulations, programs and services.
- Identifying and reviewing health promotion and disease prevention strategies.
- Supporting policies and legislation to foster health equity.

Our Major Projects:

- Conduct health equity screenings and forums utilizing tools such as the "Unnatural Causes" documentary in discussions with stakeholders to promote community based efforts to improve health among marginalized and disadvantaged communities.
- Develop legislative recommendations to promote health equity.
- Develop community based collaborative partnerships to promote health equity.

Meetings are open to the public. For more information about MHAC, visit www.vdh.state.va.us/healthpolicy/healthequity/MHAC.htm